

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-22 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 5, 15 and 20 being independent.

Editorial changes have been made to the specification and abstract. In addition, the independent claims have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-18, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Murray '672. In addition, Claims 4, 14, 19 and 22 were rejected as allegedly being obvious over Murray in view of Ikado '645. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicant's invention relates to a recording apparatus for effecting recording on a material using a recording head, with the apparatus comprising a first part for effecting a recording operation, a second part for effecting a recording operation, and a supporting member for supporting the first part. As amended, the supporting member has two bent portions for supporting opposite end portions of the first part, and a cut and bent portion disposed between the two bent portions, wherein one end of the second part is supported by one of the bent portions and another end of the second part is supported by the cut and bent portion.

Claim 5 relates to a recording apparatus for effecting recording on a recording material using recording means, and includes a reciprocable main-scanning mechanism for scanningly moving the recording means, a sub-scanning mechanism for feeding the recording material in a direction crossing with the scanning direction of the recording means, and a

supporting member for supporting a structural part forming part of the main-scanning mechanism and the sub-scanning mechanism. As amended, the supporting member includes an integral metal plate material having a bent portion which is locked with another portion of the metal plate material, wherein the bent portion is provided at each of opposite end portions of the supporting member to support opposite end portions of a guiding shaft of the main-scanning mechanism. The support member further includes a cut and bent portion disposed between the opposite end portions of the guiding shaft for supporting an end portion of a feeding roller of the sub-scanning mechanism.

In Claim 15, a recording apparatus includes a reciprocable main-scanning mechanism for scanningly moving recording means, a sub-scanning mechanism for feeding recording material in a direction crossing with the scanning direction of the recording means, and a supporting member supporting parts of the main-scanning mechanism and the sub-scanning mechanism. The supporting member is formed of an integral metal plate material having two bent portions for supporting each end of the main-scanning mechanism and a cut and bent surface disposed between the bent portions, wherein a base portion of the cut and bent surface is formed by deep drawing.

Lastly, Claim 20 relates to a recording apparatus that includes a reciprocable main-scanning mechanism for scanningly moving recording means, a sub-scanning mechanism for feeding recording material in a direction crossing with the scanning direction of the recording means, and a supporting member supporting part of the main-scanning mechanism and the sub-scanning mechanism. As amended, the supporting member is formed of an integral metal plate

material having a bent surface supporting an end of a feeding roller of the sub-scanning mechanism, a cut and bent surface supporting another end of the feeding roller, and a bent surface for supporting a pinch roller of the sub-scanning mechanism and associated with urging of the pinch roller toward the feed roller, with the bent surfaces being continuous.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, an economical and high performance recording apparatus can be provided.

The primary citation to Murray relates to an imaging apparatus that includes a machine frame 12, a printhead cartridge 14, a platen 16, and roller assemblies 18 and 20. As read by Applicant, the printer frame 12 includes separate first and second side frames 46, 48 positioned on either end of the platen 16. In contrast to Applicant's invention, however, Murray is not understood to teach or suggest, among other features, a supporting member that includes two bent portions and a cut and bent portion as set forth in Claim 1. Furthermore, Murray also fails to teach or suggest a supporting member formed of an integral metal plate material as recited in Claims 5, 15 and 20. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

The secondary citation to Ikado relates to an ink jet recording apparatus and was relied upon for its teaching of ejecting ink using thermal energy. Ikado fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in Murray as discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the remaining rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is also respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 1, 5, 15 and 20 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent

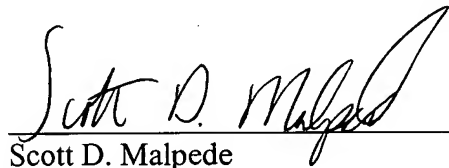
Claims 2-4, 7-14, 16-19, 21 and 22 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention.

Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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